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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Letter dated 22 June 1994 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter from His Excellency Dr. Ali-Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to you (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 104 (b) and 146 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Kamal KHARRAZI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/49/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Letter dated 22 June 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran addressed to the Secretary-General

I am sure that you have already been briefed about the 20 June terrorist bomb blast at the holy shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad. I would like to bring the following to your attention in this regard.

This heinous criminal act of blind terrorism occurred in the early afternoon hours of Ashura, one of the holiest days in our calendar, as thousands of pilgrims, coming from all across Iran as well as from other Muslim countries, congregated in this holy sanctuary. The massive explosion caused the martyrdom of at least 26 and the severe injury of 170 innocent pilgrims, including many children, elderly and women, as well as serious damage to the mausoleum, which is the holiest Muslim shrine in the country as well as a masterpiece of Islamic art and architecture.

Available evidence indicates that the infamous terrorist and mercenary group MKO, the so-called Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, planned and carried out this murderous atrocity, adding yet another shameful carnage to its dark record of pervious terrorist activities ranging from hijacking and assassinations to arbitrary murder and torture of ordinary Iranian citizens to active complicity in the 1991 suppression of the Iraqi Kurdish and Shiite population.

Regrettably, despite the politically charged international campaign against terrorism, the application of double standards and the failure of a number of apparent advocates of this campaign to curb the activities of this terrorist group inside their own territories has not only encouraged the continuation of such acts of blind terrorism, but also brought their own commitment to combat this international menace into serious question.

It should be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/122 of 20 December 1993, "urge[d] the international community to enhance cooperation in the fight against the threat of terrorism at national, regional and international levels". Furthermore, the Eleventh Ministerial Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cairo, urged that this international campaign should be directed without discrimination or double standards against "terrorism wherever, by whoever and against whomever it occurs".

It is thus the responsibility of all States to live up to their international commitments in our common endeavour to eradicate terrorism by not only condemning this cowardly act of inhumanity, but also investigating whether their official institutions, their nationals or their territories were used by this terrorist organization for the commission, planning, financing, instigating

or supporting of this crime, and take appropriate and effective measures accordingly.

Ali-Akbar VELAYATI
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Islamic Republic of Iran